



One Hundred Years Ago, On December
3, 1839, Abraham Lincoln Was
Admitted To Practice Law In The
Federal Circuit Court At Springfield.



The Christian Church
At Springfield



1939-123

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life
Foundation
Fort Wayne Indiana



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It's them as take advantage that get advantage i'
this world,

Eliot

JOHN T. STUART, senior partner of the firm of Stuart & Lincoln, having been duly elected as a member of the National House of Representatives, sojourned in Washington during the part of the year that Congress was in session. During a part of the time that he was busy in Washington wrestling with the problems of the commonwealth, the Federal Courts were in session back in his native Springfield. In order that the firm of Stuart & Lincoln could cater to the needs of its clientele, it was necessary that the junior partner be admitted to practice at the bar of that court. Thus on December 3, 1839, Abraham Lincoln was admitted to practice law in the United States Circuit Court at Springfield. This was the third step in his legal career. His original certificates enabled him to practice in just one of the Peace and Circuit Courts.

Among others admitted to practice on the same day were Stephen A. Douglass, Charles Emmerich and Samuel H. Treat, three men who were to be associated or opposed to Lincoln many times in the future. Douglass is of course, the most interesting of the trio. At the time he was admitted to practice in the Federal Court, he was certainly not the celebrity that Lincoln was, a condition he would seek to correct. His political career was limited to one term in the Legislature, from which he resigned. Indeed, he was to resign from the capacity of Secretary of State to become a Supreme Court Judge, resign from the judgeship to become a Congressman, resign from the lower house of Congress to become a Senator, and had hopes of resigning the Senate to become President but in this he was disappointed by Lincoln himself, more than once.

hare but a fighting heart once he got the inside track.

Charles Emmerson was a lawyer from Decatur in Macon County and often parried or co-operated with Lincoln in legal jousts on the Lincoln Circuit. He was later to serve a term in the Legislature and 14 years as a circuit judge.

Samuel H. Treat, served as circuit judge on the Lincoln Circuit and also as a Supreme Court judge for more than a score of years.

Like other governmental departments, the Federal Court made its Springfield debut in emergency quarters. The Christian Church building was placed at the court's disposal. This building was erected in 1834. It stood on Madison Street between Fourth and Fifth, some two blocks north of the State House site. Early in 1841 the Court moved to more or less permanent quarters in the Tinsley Building.

Once admitted, Lincoln began a long and enviable career in the Federal Courts, as records of legal precedent will attest. In these courts he was pitted against the best legal talent in the state, since lawyers from every part of the state met here. Steadily expanding his practice to include all manner of cases, Lincoln was slowly but surely acquiring the keen sense of direction that was to carry him through the four turbulent years for which fate destined him.

THEODORE S. CHARRNEY

The illustration to this event is a picture of the Christian Church where the Federal Courts first met. Printed by the POOR RICHARD PRESS, 5053 Montana Street,



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The Poor Richard Press
5053 Montana Street Chicago Illinois



Calendar of 1940 Events

FEBRUARY 1, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On February 1, 1840, The First Number Of <i>The Old Soldier</i> , A Whig Campaign Newspaper Was Published At Springfield. Abraham Lincoln Was One Of The Editors.	
FEBRUARY 3, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On February 3, 1840, The Illinois Legislature Adjourned Its First Springfield Session. Abraham Lincoln Was A Member Of That Body.	
FEBRUARY 10, 1940.....	Mailed from Peoria, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On February 10, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Was In Attendance At A Whig "Festival" In Peoria.	
FEBRUARY 12, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] The One Hundred And Thirty-First Anniversary Of The Birth Of Abraham Lincoln.	
MARCH 14, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On March 14, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Was Nominated A Candidate To The Legislature By The Sangamon County Convention At Springfield.	
MARCH 17, 1940.....	Mailed from Jacksonville, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On March 17, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Took Part In A Political Debate At Jacksonville.	
APRIL 6, 1940.....	Mailed from Carlinville, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On April 6, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Delivered A Political Address At A Whig Rally In Carlinville.	
APRIL 9, 1940.....	Mailed from Alton, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On April 9, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Delivered A Political Address At Alton.	
APRIL 11, 1940.....	Mailed from Belleville, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On April 11, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Delivered A Political Address At A Whig Rally In Belleville.	
APRIL 20, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On April 20, 1840, The Springfield Town Council, Of Which Abraham Lincoln Was A Member, Held Its Last Meeting.	
MAY 2, 1940.....	Mailed from Tremont, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On May 2, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Took Part In A Political Debate At Tremont.	
JUNE 3, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On June 3, 1840, The Young Men's Whig Convention Was Held At Springfield. Abraham Lincoln Was A Prominent Figure At The Convention.	
JUNE 6, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On June 6, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Made His First Appearance In The Illinois Supreme Court At Springfield.	
JUNE 27, 1940.....	Mailed from Shelbyville, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On June 27, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Delivered A Political Address At Shelbyville.	
JULY 20, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On July 20, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Took Part In A Political Debate At Springfield.	
AUGUST 3, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On August 3, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Was Elected To The Illinois Legislature.	
AUGUST 25, 1940.....	Mailed from Waterloo, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On August 25, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Took Part In A Political Debate At Waterloo.	
AUGUST 28, 1940.....	Mailed from Mt. Vernon, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On August 28, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Took Part In A Political Debate At Mount Vernon.	
SEPTEMBER 5, 1940.....	Mailed from Shawneetown, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On September 5, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Took Part In A Political Debate At Shawneetown.	
SEPTEMBER 17, 1940.....	Mailed from Equality, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On September 17, 1840, Abraham Lincoln Delivered A Harrison Campaign Speech At Equality.	
NOVEMBER 23, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On November 23, 1840, The Illinois Legislature Convened At Springfield. Abraham Lincoln Was A Member Of That Body.	
DECEMBER 5, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On December 5, 1840, The Notable Rain Pipe Episode Took Place At Springfield. Abraham Lincoln Was A Participant In The Ludicrous Affair.	
DECEMBER 7, 1940.....	Mailed from Springfield, Illinois
[Inscription] One Hundred Years Ago, On December 7, 1840, The House Of Representatives Began Its Second Session In The Newly Built State House At Springfield. Abraham Lincoln Was A Member Of That Body.	

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